

Subscribe

View Past Mailings

RSS

in Share

submit



CONGRESSMAN RANDY HULTGREN

Proudly Representing the 14th District of Illinois

Home | About Randy | Serving You | News | Our District | Contact

July 21, 2014

Dear Friends,

Appropriations season continues in Washington and I wanted to let you know about legislation I am working on for the benefit of the 14th District. Here's what's in this issue:

- Conflict in the Middle East
- Permanently Banning Taxes on Internet Access
- Introducing Bipartisan, Bicameral Legislation to Modernize our National Labs
- Reining in the IRS
- Preparing the Next Generation of STEM Leaders

Conflict in the Middle East

The escalating tension between Israel and Gaza over the last few weeks is emblematic of President Obama's diminished standing in the world community and has encouraged rogue elements to reassert themselves.

Israel is the most stable country and only functioning democracy in the Middle East, and we must continue to remain vigilant in protecting our close ally. I joined the House in passing H.Res. 657, a bipartisan resolution expressing our country's support for the State of Israel as it defends itself against unprovoked rocket attacks from the Hamas terrorist organization. As H.Res. 657 says: 'Hamas is a United States-designated terrorist organization whose charter calls for the destruction of the State of Israel.' Israel is a sovereign nation with the right to defend its people from these disturbing attacks. Above all, we must continue to seek peace in the region.

There is no simple solution to the Middle East's thorny history and our pursuit of peace there. As Israel announced it launched a ground offensive in Gaza, let me know what you think about the situation there:

**Given recent events in the Middle East, what policy should the President pursue?**

- Stand by Israel and support their efforts to defend against Hamas's rocket attacks while striving to work for an end to hostilities.
- Use economic and diplomatic pressure on both sides to call for an extended ceasefire.
- Call for a halt to Israel's ground offensive.
- Support Hamas's claims to Israeli territory.
- I don't know.

Submit & Join

\*By answering this survey, you are subscribing to my newsletter.

[If you are having trouble, click here.](#)

Permanently Banning Taxes on Internet Access

Americans rely on easy and affordable access to the internet to take online classes, communicate with family and friends, apply for employment and conduct business with customers around the world. Taxing the on-ramp to the web would penalize low-income families the most proportionally, and the last thing they or anyone else needs is for government to take more of their income.

This American hero made a "giant leap for mankind" 45 years ago and inspired future generations to reach ever further into space. #Apollo11



(Rep. Hultgren with the late Neil Armstrong)

**Tell a Friend**

E-mail:

E-mail:

E-mail:

Send



After years of passing short-term extensions, I was pleased the House passed [H.R. 3086](#), the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act (PITFA), a bipartisan bill I cosponsored which permanently prevents state and local governments from imposing new taxes on internet access or imposing multiple or discriminatory taxes on e-commerce.

#### Introducing Bipartisan, Bicameral Legislation to Modernize our National Labs

Our national labs like Fermilab and Argonne have been a primary driver of American innovation since the Manhattan Project, but many of their most important discoveries have been made in the past decade. Research produced there has enormous economic potential, but many times their discoveries remain stuck in the labs. It is essential we update Cold War-era policies, acknowledge the rapid pace of technological change, and improve the labs' capacity to partner with private enterprise and convert their cutting edge research into marketplace innovation.

That's why I took action and introduced the Department of Energy Laboratory Modernization and Technology Transfer Act of 2014, [H.R. 5120](#), a bipartisan companion bill to similar legislation sponsored by Senators Chris Coons (D-DE) and Marco Rubio (R-FL). These bills will make it easier for our labs to work together with businesses of all sizes to bring groundbreaking research to the marketplace, create jobs and help solve 21st century problems. Further, they will help incentivize the private sector, not government, to spend further resources on promising technologies.

#### Reining in the IRS

The IRS has immense power over individuals and has abused that power to trample on Americans' First Amendment freedoms.

In the House, the latest appropriations bill we passed this past week, the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act for FY 2015, [H.R. 5016](#), reins in overreach by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), among other things.

H.R. 5016 keeps the IRS in check by:

- Prohibiting funds for the IRS to target individuals based on their political beliefs.
- Prohibiting funds for a proposed regulation to determine tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(4), which could infringe on Americans' First Amendment Rights.
- Prohibiting funds for wasteful and overly expensive conferences or inappropriate videos.
- Prohibiting funds for employee bonuses or awards unless employee performance is given consideration.

This legislation will prevent the IRS from further targeting individuals based on which box they check at the polls or what church they attend. It's time to rein in the IRS.

In addition, the legislation included the text of [H.R. 992](#), the Swaps Regulatory Improvement Act, a bill I introduced to ensure that entities like farmers and manufacturers that rely on certain types of financial products to persevere during uncertain times would continue to have affordable and stable access to those tools they use to manage market volatility.

#### Preparing the Next Generation of STEM Leaders

Technological competency is an essential requirement for today's workforce, and computer literacy is key to ensuring our children are prepared to meet the challenges of the future. We cannot underestimate the importance of computer science and coding in the global economy.

This past week, I supported House passage of legislation which would strengthen science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education in the classroom, prepare students for tomorrow's workplace, and promote scientific research and innovation. [H.R. 5031](#), the STEM Education Act of 2013, defines STEM to include other academic subjects that build on these disciplines such as computer science, supports informal and out-of-school STEM education, and supports STEM majors and professionals in becoming K-12 teachers.

If you haven't already, be sure to like my [Facebook page](#), follow me on Twitter ([@RepHultgren](#)), or check out my [YouTube page](#) to stay informed on everything I'm doing on your behalf in Washington and in Illinois.

As always, thank you for the honor and privilege of serving you.

In Your Service,



*Randy Hultgren  
Member of Congress  
14th District, Illinois*

#### Randy in the News

[Federal money could push Kerr-McGee cleanup forward](#) (The Daily Herald)  
[House Bill Would Modernize America's National Labs](#) (The Daily Signal)  
[Hultgren Applauds House-Passed Resolution Supporting Israel](#) (Illinois Review)  
[Meriam Ibrahim's Islamic Relatives Drop Lawsuit Against Christian Mother; Could Allow Family to Leave for US](#) (Christian Post)  
[Weber breaks ground on Huntley distribution center](#) (Elgin Courier-News)

#### Resources for You

View my [voting record](#)  
See [what's coming up next](#) on the House floor  
Get help when [dealing with a federal agency](#)  
Read all about [Illinois' 14th Congressional District](#)

#### Contact Information

**Washington, DC**  
332 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-2976  
Fax: (202) 225-0697

**Geneva Office**  
1797 State Street Suite A  
Geneva, IL 60134  
Phone: (630) 232-7104  
Fax: (630) 232-7174

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update My Profile](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)